

# **Eyo matamanai alakuwa: the social implications of conservation-induced displacement for the Maasai residents of Engare Sero, northern Tanzania**

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## **Abstract**

Competing ideologies from indigenous people and Western conservationists have permeated environmental discourse in recent years, particularly on the topic of displacing people for the sake of conservation or development. The purpose of this study is to investigate the social ramifications of the forced migration of the pastoralist Maasai people now living in the village of Engare Sero, located in northern Tanzania. With the looming Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority's land adoption proposal in place, this policy would put Engare Sero, a village currently under the jurisdiction of the Loliondo Game Reserve, under the restrictions of a multiple land use area, whereby cultivation is prohibited and grazing restricted. In turn, the people would then be displaced from their homes. Few previous studies have assessed the relationships of the Maasai with Western organizations and the impacts of these changes on the livelihoods of the local people within the larger context of how this affects their agency and their cultural narrative. Through the use of semi-structured interviews with Maasai residents (n=93) who have previously been displaced from the village of Nayobi and are now facing secondary displacement from Engare Sero, this study aims to provide a critical analysis of how displacement influences these aspects of Maasai life among the residents of Engare Sero.